

March
1671. R

An act against Divulgers of false News.

Whereas many Idle and busie headed People doe
forge and divulge many false Rumors and Reports;
to the great disturbance of the peace of the Right &
hono^{ble} the Lord Prop^{ty}, and his good people of this
Provincie

Be it enacted by the Right hono^{ble} the Lord & &
Prop^{ty}, by and with the assent of this present gen^l
Assembly, That what Person or Persons soever &
shall forge or divulge any false Reports, tending to
the trouble of the Provincie; &c; or they shall be, by
the next Justice of peace, sent for, and bound over to
the next County Court, or the Prob^{all} Court: where,
if the thing related be materiall; and that he ~~pro~~ produce
not his Author, he shall be fined 2000^l Tob: or less,
if the Court shall think fitt to lessen it: and besides,
give Bond with sureties, for his behav^{our}, if it ap-
pear to the Court, that he did maliciously publish, or
invent the same: the one halfe to the Lord Prop^{ty}, &
the other halfe to him or them that shall inform of the
same: to be Recovered in any Court of Record wthin
this Provincie.

And further if any such Idle or busie headed
person shall forge; or maliciously publish, or invent
any false Reports or Falsh of any of his Lord^s
Justices of the Prob^{all} Court shall by the Justice
of the